

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 2, 14, 17, 18, 20, 22-25, 27 and 44, cancel claim 43, and add claim 50 and 51. Thus, claims 2-18, 20-42, and 44-52 are pending in this application. Support for the amendment to claim 25 may be found at least on page 19, line 10, to page 20, line 10, of the specification and in FIG. 1. Support for the amendment to claim 27 and for new claim 50 may be found at least on page 15, line 24, to page 16, line 24, of the specification and in FIG 4B. Support for new claim 50 may be found at least in FIGS. 1-4A. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 9-11, 20-22, 26, and 47-49 recite allowable subject matter. However, Applicants respectfully assert that all of the pending claims are allowable.

The title is objected to as non-descriptive. By this amendment, the title is amended to be even more descriptive. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 2 and 27-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

With respect to claim 2, the language of the claim has been clarified such that it is definite. With respect to claims 27-45, the cartridge frame moves relative to the photosensitive body as claimed. Claim 27 recites that "the photosensitive body and the cartridge frame are connected such that positions of the photosensitive body and the cartridge frame are changeable relative to one another while the process cartridge is loaded in and unloaded from the mainframe."

As shown in at least FIGS. 1, 2, and 4A, when the process cartridge (50M, 50C, 50Y, 50BK) is loaded in the mainframe (printer 1), the photosensitive body (e.g., photosensitive drum

3M, 3C, 3Y, 3BK) is disposed below the cartridge frame (e.g., the frame of the developing device 51M, 51C, 51Y, 51BK) (see p. 16, l. 25 - p. 17, l. 9). However, as shown in at least FIGS. 1, 2, 3, and 4A, when the process cartridge (50M, 50C, 50Y, 50BK) is unloaded from the mainframe (printer 1), the photosensitive body (e.g., photosensitive drum 3M, 3C, 3Y, 3BK) is disposed in line with the cartridge frame (e.g., the frame of developing devices 51M, 51C, 51Y, 51BK) (see p. 16, l. 25 - p. 17, l. 9). Thus, the positions of the photosensitive body and the cartridge frame are changeable relative to one another while the process cartridge is loaded in and unloaded from the mainframe.

As a result, claims 2, 27-42, 44, and 45 are definite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 5, 7, 12-14, 17, 23-25, and 27-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over JP A 2001-255777 (Ishida). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 14, 17, 23, and 24 are amended to depend from non-rejected claim 46. Thus, claims 14, 17, 23, and 24 are patentable over Ishida for at least the reasons that claim 46 is patentable over Ishida, as well as for the additional feature they recite.

With respect to independent claim 25, Ishida at least fails to disclose that "the photosensitive body of the process cartridge is horizontally in line with an exposure unit of the mainframe when the process cartridge is loaded in the main frame" and that "the photosensitive body of the process cartridge is not horizontally in line with an exposure unit of the mainframe when the process cartridge is being unloaded from the main frame."

Although the location of the exposure unit is not shown or described in Ishida, it cannot be located horizontally in line with the photoconductor drum 10. That is, as shown in FIG. 2, if an exposure unit of Ishida was located horizontally in line with the photoconductor drum 10, any laser emitted thereby would be blocked by the case of the developer 20 or the case of the cleaning/electrification unit 30.

Because, Ishida at least fails to disclose that "the photosensitive body of the process cartridge is horizontally in line with an exposure unit of the mainframe when the process cartridge is loaded in the main frame" and that "the photosensitive body of the process cartridge is not horizontally in line with an exposure unit of the mainframe when the process cartridge is being unloaded from the main frame," claim 25 is patentable over Ishida. Further, claims 5, 7, 12, and 13 are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 25 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

With respect to independent claim 27, Ishida at least fails to disclose "a mainframe including a first guide portion and a second guide portion, each of which is formed horizontally across an inside of the mainframe, and each of which curve downward at their ends" wherein "the cartridge frame is guided by and stops at the end of the first guide portion and the developing roller is guided by and stops at the end of second guide portion when the process cartridge is loaded in the mainframe." It appears that the Office Action is alleging that notches 63 and 61 are equivalent to the claimed first and second guide portions. However, notches 63 and 61 are neither formed horizontally across an inside of the mainframe nor curve downward at their ends. Thus, Ishida discloses no structure that can reasonably be considered equivalent to the above features of claim 27. Claim 27 is patentable over Ishida. Further, claims 28-42, 44 and 45 are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 27 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Because, claims 5, 7, 12-14, 17, 23-25, 27-42, 44, and 45 are patentable over Ishida, the rejection is improper. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 12-14, 16, 17, 23-25, and 27-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over JP A 9-152826 (Takiguchi). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

With respect to independent claim 25, Takiguchi at least fails to disclose that "the photosensitive body of the process cartridge is horizontally in line with an exposure unit of

the mainframe when the process cartridge is loaded in the main frame" and that "the photosensitive body of the process cartridge is not horizontally in line with an exposure unit of the mainframe when the process cartridge is being unloaded from the main frame."

Although Takiguchi discloses a predetermined light source, which forms the electrostatic image on the photoconductor drum 7 (paragraph [0023]), the location of the predetermined light source is not shown or described. Thus, Takiguchi fails to disclose that an exposure unit is located horizontally in line with the photoconductor drum 7.

Because, Takiguchi at least fails to disclose that "the photosensitive body of the process cartridge is horizontally in line with an exposure unit of the mainframe when the process cartridge is loaded in the main frame" and that "the photosensitive body of the process cartridge is not horizontally in line with an exposure unit of the mainframe when the process cartridge is being unloaded from the main frame," claim 25 is patentable over Takiguchi. Further, claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, and 13 are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 25 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

With respect to independent claim 27, Takiguchi at least fails to disclose "a mainframe including a first guide portion and a second guide portion, each of which is formed horizontally across an inside of the mainframe, and each of which curve downward at their ends" wherein "the cartridge frame is guided by and stops at the end of the first guide portion and the developing roller is guided by and stops at the end of second guide portion when the process cartridge is loaded in the mainframe." It appears that the Office Action is alleging that crevices 3b and 7b are equivalent to the claimed first and second guide portions. However, crevices 3b and 7b are neither formed horizontally across an inside of the mainframe nor curve downward at their ends. Thus, Takiguchi discloses no structure that can reasonably be considered equivalent to the above features of claim 27. Claim 27 is patentable over Takiguchi.

Further, claims 28-42, 44, and 45 are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 27 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

With respect to independent claim 46, Takiguchi at least fails to disclose "the first elastic element connecting the photosensitive body and the cartridge frame." Takiguchi disclose an elastic element 9, which connects the developing means 2 (having the developing roller 3) and the cartridge body 5 (paragraphs [0017] and [0021], and FIG. 1). Thus, in Takiguchi, the elastic element 9 connects the developing means 2 and roller 3 to the cartridge body 5 - it does not connect the photoconductor drum 7 to the cartridge body 5. Thus, Takiguchi fails to disclose the first elastic element connecting the photosensitive body and the cartridge frame, as recited in claim 46.

Because Takiguchi at least fails to disclose "the first elastic element connecting the photosensitive body and the cartridge frame," claim 46 is patentable over Takiguchi. Further, claims 14, 16, 17, 23, and 24 are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 27 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Because, claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 12-14, 16, 17, 23-25, 27-42, and 44-46 are patentable over Takiguchi, the rejection is improper. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 15, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ishida or Takiguchi. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

This rejection is premised upon the presumption that either Ishida or Takiguchi discloses all of the features of claims 25 and 46. Because, as discussed above, neither Ishida nor Takiguchi discloses all of the features of claims 25 and 46, the rejection is improper. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jesse O. Collier
Registration No. 53,839

JAO:JOC/hs

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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